

Serial No.: 10/807,991  
Docket No.: ECV-5510CON  
Amendment dated May 12, 2005  
Responsive to Office Action of December 13, 2004

Amendments to the claims:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in the present application:

5 1-22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A method for chemically treating and oxidizing a biological tissue, wherein the biological tissue comprises connective tissue protein, the method comprising:

10 fixing the biological tissue by contacting it with a solution comprising a chemical fixative agent and an oxidizing chemical, and heating the solution to a temperature of between about 45-55°C.

15 24. (New) The method according to claim 23 wherein the oxidizing chemical is selected from the group of oxidizing chemicals consisting of a peroxide, a compound containing peroxide, hydrogen peroxide, a periodate, a compound containing periodate, sodium periodate, a diisocyanate compound, a halogen, a compound containing halogen, n-bromosuccinimide, a permanganate, a compound containing permanganate, ozone, a compound containing ozone, chromic acid, sulfuryl chloride, a sulfoxide, a selenoxide, and combinations thereof.

20 25. (New) The method according to claim 23 wherein the chemical fixative agent is a polyepoxy compound.

25 26. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the chemical fixative agent comprises 0.2-2.0% glutaraldehyde.

27. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the chemical fixative agent comprises 0.625% glutaraldehyde.

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28. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the solution is heated to a temperature of about  $50 \pm 5$  °C.

29. (New) The method according to claim 28 wherein the biological tissue is contacted 5 by the solution for a period of between about 7 and 14 days.

30. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the biological tissue is contacted by the solution for a period of 0.5-60 days.

10 31. (New) The method according to claim 30 wherein the period is between about 7 and 14 days.

32. (New) A method for chemically treating and oxidizing a biological tissue, wherein the biological tissue comprises connective tissue protein, the method comprising:

15 fixing the biological tissue by contacting it with a solution comprising a chemical fixative agent and heating the solution to a temperature of between about 45-55°C, and then contacting the biological tissue with an oxidizing chemical.

33. (New) The method according to claim 32 wherein the oxidizing chemical is selected from the group of oxidizing chemicals consisting of a peroxide, a compound containing 20 peroxide, hydrogen peroxide, a periodate, a compound containing periodate, sodium periodate, a diisocyanate compound, a halogen, a compound containing halogen, n-bromosuccinimide, a permanganate, a compound containing permanganate, ozone, a compound containing ozone, chromic acid, sulfuryl chloride, a sulfoxide, a selenoxide, and combinations thereof.

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34. (New) The method according to claim 32 wherein the chemical fixative agent is a polyepoxy compound.

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35. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the chemical fixative agent comprises 0.2-2.0% glutaraldehyde.

36. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein the chemical fixative agent 5 comprises 0.625% glutaraldehyde.

37. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the solution is heated to a temperature of about  $50 \pm 5$  °C.

10 38. (New) The method according to claim 37 wherein the biological tissue is contacted by the solution for a period of between about 7 and 14 days.

39. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the biological tissue is contacted by the solution for a period of 0.5-60 days.

15 40. (New) The method according to claim 39 wherein the period is between about 7 and 14 days.